

# Commissioner J. David Donahue Receives National Award at NAMI State Conference

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J. David Donahue,  
Commissioner

Indianapolis, Indiana - (October 18, 2007) – The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Indiana hosted its Statewide Conference at the Marten House and Lilly Conference Center on Saturday, October, 6, 2007. The focus of this year's Conference was "Mental Illness and the Legal System." In addition to the many informative workshops and discussions taking place at this year's Conference, there was an awards ceremony honoring those who have helped advance the quality of care given to those with mental illnesses.

Among the award recipients was **J. David Donahue, Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Correction**, who received NAMI National's "Excellence in Community Mental Health Service Award." After acknowledging that the Department of Correction can be described as Indiana's largest mental health provider, NAMI recognized that, "Indiana is fortunate that Commissioner Donahue is not a 'business as usual' leader, but one who understands humanity, the need for public safety and is the ultimate public servant."

After receiving the award, Commissioner Donahue remarked, "I am fortunate to lead a group of dedicated Department of Correction employees who have grown to understand the balance that exists between ensuring public safety by supervising criminal offenders, and providing care to those institutionalized persons with serious mental illnesses who will someday return back to Indiana's communities." Commissioner Donahue went on to thank the partners of NAMI who have helped the Department of Correction keep pace with advancements in staff training, and the treatment of offenders with mental illness.

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**About The Department of Correction**

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.